



BROMSGROVE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORTS FOR THE YEAR 1947.

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

and the

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR.



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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE BROMSGROVE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report on the health of the Bromsgrove Urban District and the work of the Health Department for the year 1947.

The year fell during the period of office of Dr. L.J.Bacon, my predecessor under whose able administration your Health Department worked during the year.

I have confined myself to setting out statistics and to giving information on the various aspects of the towns health during the year, information for which I am indebted to Mr. H.Holden, your Senior Sanitary Inspector, Mr. F.J.Goodman, your Surveyor, Mr.E.E.Williams, your Treasurer and Mr. R.White, your Housing Manager, and I have commented only when necessary to bring out the salient points of interest.

Generally the health of the town was good during the year, a measles epidemic occurred but with only one fatal case. The Poliomyelitis epidemic produced a lot of hard work for the Health Department but the town escaped with only four notified cases.

It would appear that the main problem with which we are going to have to deal during the next few years will be that of housing, and if only this can be solved, very many of our health problems will solve themselves.

BROMSGROVE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT FOR THE YEAR 1947.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

L.J.Bacon, M.A., M.D., B.Chir., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health (Part Time) and Assistant County Medical
Officer.

V.Pugh, B.Sc., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., M.B., Ch.B.,
Deputy Medical Officer of Health, Assistant County Medical Officer.

H.Holden, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.
Royal Sanitary Institute Meat and Food Certificate.
Liverpool University Meat and Food Certificate.
Senior Sanitary Inspector, Meat and Food Inspector, Shops Inspector,
Petroleum Officer.

D.S.Smith, Certificate S.I.B., Royal Sanitary Institute Meat and
Food Certificate, Additional Sanitary Inspector.

C.J.Burford, Certificate S.I.B., Royal Sanitary Institute Meat and
Food Certificate, Additional Sanitary Inspector.

Clerks. Miss Wass and Miss Leeson.

District Medical Officers.

A.J.Rae, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
F.Harmon Vollam, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Public Vaccinators.

A.J.Rae, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
F.Harmon Vollam, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

SECTION "A"

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area: 9248 Acres.

Registrar General's estimate of population, mid 1947 - 25,290
1946 - 24,970
1945 - 24,600
1938 - 23,540

Number of inhabited houses - end of 1947 - 7,303
end of 1946 - 7,201
end of 1945 - 7,130
end of 1938 - 6,902

Rateable Value 1st. April 1947 - £138,904.

Sum represented by a penny rate - £548.

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTH RATE.

Births per 1000 population.

<u>1947</u>	<u>1946</u>	<u>1945</u>	<u>1938</u>	<u>1947 (England & Wales)</u>
18.58	17.8	15.5	17.8	20.5

Live Births.			
	M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate.	226	220	446
Illegitimate.	7	17	24
Total.	233	237	470

ILLEGITIMACY RATE (Total live illegitimate births per 1000 total live births.)

<u>1947</u>	<u>1946</u>	<u>1945</u>	<u>1938</u>
51.1	56.2	86.4	33.5

STILL BIRTH RATE (a) Still births per 1000 total births.

<u>1947</u>	<u>1946</u>	<u>1945</u>	<u>1938</u>	<u>1947 (England & Wales)</u>
28.9	8.9	32.9	27.9	23.8

Still Births.			
	M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate.	9	5	14
Illegitimate.	-	-	-
Total.	9	5	14

DEATH RATE.Deaths per 1000 population.

<u>1947</u>	<u>1946</u>	<u>1945</u>	<u>1938</u>	<u>1947</u> (England & Wales)
10.7	9.4	10.5	12.5	12.0

Deaths.		
M.	F.	Total.
133	137	270

MATERNAL MORTALITY.Maternal deaths per 1000 total births.

<u>1947</u>	<u>1946</u>	<u>1945</u>	<u>1938</u>	<u>1947</u> (England & Wales)
2.06	-	-	-	1.17

Maternal Deaths.		
Puerperal Sepsis	-	0
Other maternal causes	-	1
Total.		1

INFANT MORTALITY.Deaths of infants under 1 year per 1000 total births.

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1946</u>	<u>1945</u>	<u>1938</u>	<u>1947</u> (England & Wales.)
Legitimate.	26.9	31.0	43.0	56.9	-
Illegitimate.	41.7	40.0	60.6	166.7	-
Total.	27.7	31.5	44.5	59.8	41.0

Infant Deaths.

	M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate.	7	5	12
Illegitimate.	1	-	1
Total.	8	5	13

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE BROMSGROVE URBAN DISTRICT 1947.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	MALES	FEM- ALES.	TOTAL	MORTALITY RATE.
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever.	0	0	0	0
2. Cerebro - Spinal Fever.	0	0	0	0
3. Scarlet Fever.	0	0	0	0
4. Whooping Cough.	0	0	0	0
5. Diphtheria.	0	0	0	0
6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.	6	8	14	0.55
7. Other Forms of Tuberculosis.	1	0	1	0.04
8. Syphilis Diseases.	2	1	3	0.12
9. Influenza.	1	0	1	0.04
10. Measles.	1	0	1	0.04
11. Acute Poliomyelitis, and Polio-encephalitis.	0	0	0	0
12. Acute Infectious Encephalitis.	0	1	1	0.04
13. Cancer of Buccal cavity and Oesophagus (M) Uterus (F)	5	3	8	0.31
14. Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum.	6	3	9	0.36
15. Cancer of the Breast.	0	5	5	0.19
16. Cancer of all other sites.	17	15	32	1.26
17. Diabetes.	0	2	2	0.08
18. Intra Cranial Vascular Lesions.	12	23	35	1.38
19. Heart Disease.	33	27	60	2.36
20. Other Diseases of Circulatory System.	1	4	5	0.19
21. Bronchitis.	4	5	9	0.36
22. Pneumonia.	5	7	12	0.47
23. Other Respiratory Diseases.	1	2	3	0.12
24. Ulcer of stomach and Duodenum.	0	0	0	0
25. Diarrhoea (Under 2 years).	2	0	2	0.08 <i>4</i>
26. Appendicitis.	2	0	2	0.08
27. Other Digestive Diseases.	2	1	3	0.12
28. Nephritis.	3	4	7	0.27
29. Puerperal and Post Abortive Sepsis.	0	0	0	0
30. Other Maternal Causes.	0	1	1	0.04
31. Premature Birth.	3	1	4	0.16
32. Congenital malformation, birth injuries and other infant disease.	4	3	7	0.27
33. Suicide.	1	3	4	0.16
34. Road Traffic Accidents.	3	3	6	0.23
35. Other violent Causes.	3	0	3	0.12
36. All Other Causes.	15	15	30	1.18
 Totals.	133	137	270	10.7

4 Rate per 1000 live births - 4.3

Comment on the Vital Statistics.

The Population.

The population shows a continual rise, showing an increase of 320 on the previous year's figure.

The Birth Rate. (18.58) shows an increase on the previous year's, but once again it is a little below that for the whole country. It is abnormally high and a matter of speculation as to whether the high figure will be maintained, or whether it is a post war peak to be followed by a fall.

The Illegitimacy Rate (51.1 per 1000 live births) shows a welcome reduction compared with previous years, but still represents about 1 child in twenty.

The Still Birth Rate (28.9 per 1000 total births) is slightly higher than that for the whole country and must still be regarded as possible of reduction.

Maternal Mortality Rate (2.06) is slightly higher than that for the whole of the country, but as it is based on one maternal death little significance can be attached; the fact that this is the first maternal death in this district for a number of years is proof of the soundness of the maternity services and the very slight risk of child bearing.

Infant Mortality (27.7 deaths per 1000 births) reflects the continual downward trend which is being generally experienced throughout the country; the figure is considerably below that for the whole country.

The Death Rate 10.7 deaths per 1000 population, shows a slight rise compared with the previous year, but is better than that for the whole country.

The major causes are as follows:-

1. Diseases of heart and circulatory system.	37%
2. Cancer (All Forms).	25%
3. Respiratory Diseases (Excluding Tuberculosis)	8.9%
4. Tuberculosis.	5.5%

This follows the general outline of the previous years picture; diseases of the heart and circulatory system constituting the major group, and as a large part of this can be regarded as natural death occurring in old age, this is to be expected. There is a slight but not significant rise in the percentage due to Cancer.

The table below shows the percentage distribution of deaths by age:-

AGE AT DEATH.	%
0 - 1 Year.	4.8%
1 - 14 Years.	5.9%
15 - 44 Years.	7.8%
45 - 64 Years.	22.2%
65 and Over.	59.3%

SECTION "B"

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Services provided by the County Council.

The County Council, as Welfare and Education Authority, provides the majority of the personal health services for the District. These services include:-

(a) Clinics and Treatment Centres.

CLINIC.	SITUATION.	TIME OF HOLDING.
Bromsgrove Infant Welfare Centre.	Recreation Road.	Wednesday 2.0 p.m.
Catshill Infant Welfare Centre.	Baptist Chapel.	1st. and 3rd. Friday 2.0 p.m.
Rubery Infant Welfare Centre.	St. Chads Church Hall.	1st. and 3rd. Thursday 2.0 p.m.
Bromsgrove Ante-Natal Clinic.	Recreation Road.	Monday 10 - 12 a.m. and 2 - 4 p.m.
School Clinic, Bromsgrove.	Recreation Road.	Monday and Wednesday 10 - 12 a.m.
Dental Clinic.	Recreation Road.	As arranged.
Tuberculosis.	Recreation Road.	Tuesday 2.0 p.m.
Rubery Ante-Natal Clinic.	St. Chads Church Hall.	1st. and 3rd. Thursdays 10.0 a.m.
Diphtheria Immunisation.	Recreation Road.	2nd. and 4th. Wednesdays 11 a.m.

A great deal of valuable work, directed towards the preservation of health and the prevention of disease, is carried out in these clinics by the Medical and Nursing staffs. In the Welfare Centres there is additional assistance which is greatly appreciated from voluntary workers.

b) Midwifery Services (Domiciliary)

Midwives in private practise and employed by the District Nursing Association are supervised for this purpose by the County Council.

c) Laboratory Facilities.

The County Laboratory undertakes the examination of clinical material (throat swabs, sputum, blood etc.) water milk and foodstuffs.

d) Hospitals.

The following hospital facilities are provided, directly or by

arrangement, by the County Council:-

1. Infectious Disease. (Including Tuberculosis).	Bromsgrove, Droitwich and Redditch Joint Hospital (Bromsgrove)
2. Tuberculosis.	Knightwick Sanatorium.
3. Smallpox.	W.C.C. Smallpox Hospital, Worcester.
4. Maternity.	Mary Stephens Maternity Hospital, Stourbridge. Lucy Baldwins Maternity Hospital, Stourport. Rigby Hall Maternity Hospital, Bromsgrove.
5. Childrens Diseases.	The Childrens Hospital, Birmingham.
6. Tonsils and Adenoid Cases.	Bromsgrove Cottage Hospital.
7. Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia Cases.	The General Hospital, Birmingham. The Royal Infirmary, Worcester.
8. Public Assistance Cases (General).	Bromsgrove Public Assistance Institution.
9. Public Assistance Cases (Mental).	Barnsley Hall Mental Hospital Bromsgrove. Powick Mental Hospital, Malvern.

In addition to the foregoing hospital facilities provided by or through the County Council, Bromsgrove residents have access to the Bromsgrove Cottage Hospital for general illness.

The Diphtheria Immunisation Service. (See Section F.) is provided jointly by the Urban District Council and the County Council, the latter being responsible for the immunisation of children under 5 years of age.

The Ambulance Service.

An ambulance service is provided by the District Council. In addition to the two drivers a roll of voluntary ambulance attendants is maintained and their valuable work is greatly appreciated. One ambulance is maintained always available.

An ambulance is provided by the Joint Hospital Board for the conveyance of infectious cases.

The work of the ambulance during the year is summarised as follows:-

Total Calls.....	993
Patients Carried.....	971
Accident.....	96
Maternity	143
Other Cases.....	732
County Cases.....	135

Total Mileage - 13,458 miles.

Health Education. The Council subscribes to the Central Council for Health Education. Publicity by leaflets and posters was undertaken in conjunction with the national campaign to promote immunisation against diphtheria. Leaflets advising as to the maintenance of health and the prevention of infectious disease and contagious disease were distributed, through the schools and otherwise, as occasion offered.

SECTION "C"

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

A detailed statement of the sanitary state of the area and of the work carried out by the Inspectors is given by the Senior Sanitary Inspector. A considerable amount of work has been done and your Council have been very well served in this respect during the year. A good deal of work, unfortunately, has been unproductive, mainly in connection with the issue of licences for the repair of property, but it is to be hoped that with the return of normal conditions work of a more constructive nature will be undertaken in its place.

WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply of almost the whole of the area is piped and supplied by the East Worcestershire Waterworks Company, the water is obtained from two sets of boreholes, one at Burcot and the other at Washingsstocks; it is frequently sampled by the Waterworks Company, copies of the reports are sent to the Health Department and two specimen reports are given below:-

(a) Sample marked Burcot - "Earl of Plymouth".

I hereby certify that I have examined the above sample chemically and bacteriologically with the following results:-

Physical Characters - Clear.

Cdour	- None.	
Deposit	- None.	pH 6.8

Chemical Examination (Results expressed in parts per 100.000)

Solids in Suspension (Dried at 100°C)	None
Solids in Sollution (Dried at 100°C)	25
Solids in Solution (After Ignition)	22
Chlorides calculated as common salt	3
Hardness Permanent	5
Hardness Temporary	8
Hardness Total	13
Free and Saline Ammonia	0.0008
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.0006
Nitric Nitrogen (Nitrates)	Trace
Nitrous Nitrogen (Nitrites)	None
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C	None
Toxic Metals.	None detected.

Note. To convert the above parts per 100.000 to grains per gallon multiply by 0.7

Bacteriological Examination.

Number of colonies developing upon Agar:-

(a) In two days at 37°C..... 2 per 1 ml.
(b) In three days at 22°C..... 2 per 1 ml.

Opinion:- The sample is fit for drinking.

Signed M.M.Love.

County Analyst

25th. November, 1947.

(b) Sample marked Washinglests "Bigwood".

I hereby certify that I have examined the above sample chemically and bacteriologically with the following results:-

Physical Characters. Clear.

Odour - None.
Deposit - None. pH 7.4

Chemical Examination. (Results expressed in parts per 100.000)

Solids in Suspension (Dried at 100°C)	None
Solids in Solution (Dried at 100°C)	30
Solids in Solution After Ignition.	26
Chlorides calculated as Common Salt	3.5
Hardness Permanent	8
Hardness Temporary	12
Hardness Total	20
Free and Saline Ammonia	0.002
Albuminoid Ammonia.....	0.0008
Nitric Nitrogen (Nitrates).....	Trace
Nitrous Nitrogen (Nitrates)	None
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C (N/80 Permanganate) ..	None
	None detected
<u>None</u> to convert the above parts per 100.000 to grains per gallon	
	multiply by 0.7.

Bacteriological Examination.

Number of Colonies developing upon Agar

(a) In two days at 37°C.....6 per 1 ml.

(b) In three days at 22°C.....10 per 1 ml.

Coli Aerogenes (presumptive coli) count.... Nil per 100 ml.

Opinion:- The sample is fit for drinking.

Signed M.M.Love.
County Analyst.

12th. December, 1947.

Samples are also taken by the Health Department of water in circulation, it has always been found satisfactory.

In parts of the district where piped water is not available wells are in use, the yield of these varies in quality and quantity.

During this year in addition to piped water laid on to new housing estates, mains were constructed to supply properties in Worms Ash and Little Heath Lane.

A detailed survey of the houses supplied by wells, is being made and schemes for further extension of mains are being prepared.

The position with regard to the type of supply is as follows - until the survey is completed these figures will be only approximate.

Type of Water Supply in the District.

	Estimated No. of Houses.	Approximate Population.
Served by Mains supply direct to the house.	5905	20,380
Served by Stand Pipe.	1200	4140
Served by Well or Spring.	160	550

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Sewers were laid down for new building sites during the year and new sewers were laid at Green Lane, Catshill and Alvechurch Highway. A survey showed that 1008 houses are still served by cesspools and it was estimated that about 800 houses have pail closets or privies.

Improvement in this field, must of necessity be gradual, as sewerage work is expensive and time consuming, but it must be maintained as the position cannot be regarded as satisfactory.

The Council ordered a cesspool emptier during the year which will improve the position with regard to the nuisances arising from emptying cesspools and disposing of the contents.

The Sewage Disposal Works continued to give satisfactory Service during the year.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Refuse collection and disposal are supervised by the Surveyor. The collections of house refuse are weekly in the town and fortnightly in the more rural districts but these periods are considerably interfered with by labour difficulties and holidays.

The number of loads from bins was 1200, and the number of night scil loads 450.

RODENT CONTROL.

Work of Rodent Control went on during the year: a detailed report is given by the Senior Sanitary Inspector.

FACTORIES.

The Council has duties under the Factories Act 1937, to maintain a Register of Factories; to inspect them and to be satisfied as to the adequacy of sanitary conveniences and means of escape from fire, and as to the suitability of drinking water to supervise all factories in which no mechanical power is used in respect of cleanliness, overcrowding, temperature control, ventilation and drainage of floors; and to supervise the working conditions of Home Workers.

A survey of the work carried out is given below:-

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.)

	Number of			
	No. on Register.	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories with mechanical power.	10	27	4	-
Factories without mechanical power.	88	134	2	-
Other premises (not including Outworkers premises)	-	-	-	-
Total.	...	98	161	6

2. Cases in which defects were found:-

Particulars.	Number of cases in which defects were found.			Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.	
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred.	To H.M. Insp.	By H.M. Insp.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Want of cleanliness.	3	3	-	-	-
Overcrowding.	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature.	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation.	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of Floor.	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Convenience:-	-	-	-	-	-
Insufficient.	-	-	-	-	-
Unsuitable or defective.	4	4	-	2	-
Not separate for sexes.	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences.	-	-	-	-	-
Total	7	7	-	2	-

RIVERS POLLUTION PREVENTION

This is undertaken by the County Council in this area.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Nuisances from smoke are not a problem in this district and none were reported during the year.

SECTION "D".

HOUSING.

As it was pointed out in the last report the normal work of the Public Health Department in connection with housing is mainly carried out in pursuance of the requirements of the Housing and Public Health Acts and comes under four headings 1) the maintenance of dwelling houses in a sanitary and habitable state 2) the demolition or closure of houses which are insanitary or unfit for habitation and cannot be repaired at reasonable expense 3) the clearance and redevelopment of areas where insanitary dwellings are congested (slum clearance) and 4) the prevention and abatement of overcrowding.

In these fields relatively little was performed in 1947.

Work carried out to keep houses in a sanitary and habitable state was confined to the absolute minimum to keep them more or less weatherproof; your inspectors had a thankless task in getting the minimum of work done; the repair of old rented houses is generally an uneconomic proposition, with the present high cost of repair work this type of property has become a liability.

A preliminary survey made in 1938 showed that 1290 houses would fall into a class requiring demolition either as unfit houses or in clearance areas, as little has been done to these houses since 1938 the condition of a good deal of the property of the town can be imagined.

With the acute shortage of houses demolition was only recommended in the case of three houses, which were structurally unsafe.

The remarks made by Dr. Bacon in the report for 1946 still apply and the position in 1947 can have been little different, from that of the former year except that the older property would be a year older and more dilapidated and a relatively small number of houses were constructed.

During the year 135 houses were erected which included 50 prefabricated houses at the end of the year 220 houses were planned or under construction.

Houses provided by the Authority are let under a points scheme.

The provision of houses must be our biggest domestic problem and it would appear that for a number of years re-housing from a public health point of view, on any reasonable scale will not be possible unless there is a considerable increase in the rate of building or a reduction in the standard of new building.

SECTION "E"

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

1) Food Premises.

Control of the conditions under which food is prepared, stored and sold is exercised in pursuance of powers given under the Food and Drugs Act of 1938. This Act has been gradually coming into force for the last ten years, its implementation being greatly retarded during the war.

Considerable work will have to be done before we can feel confident that the production and sale of food is everywhere carried out in a satisfactory manner. The difference between the satisfactory premises and the unsatisfactory is often alarming, and no effort should be spared to produce a general improvement. The satisfactory handling of food is particularly important today when more people than ever are eating out in communal feeding places and when use has to be made of every scrap of food. One peculiar difficulty associated with the food industry is that, while the handling of food should be of the highest standard, it often attracts the lowest standard of personnel - much of the work being of a hum drum character is not attractive to people of the standard of education which prevails in the United Kingdom. Efforts will have to be made to arouse a sense of awareness of the importance of clean food handling in the community and considerable education of those engaged in the food industry, must take place.

2) Meat.

Meat is delivered under arrangements made by the Ministry of Food from Birmingham, to local distribution depots for distribution to butchers' shops; it appeared to be satisfactory during the year.

3) Milk.

With an increase in the amount of milk supplied by larger retailers during the year there was a considerable improvement in the quality of milk consumed, and a very much increased proportion was designated milk. As the position changed rapidly during the year accurate figures for the proportion of milk which fell into the various categories are not available, but it is hoped to have them for 1948.

4) Ice Cream.

A good deal of work in connection with the preparation and sale of Ice Cream was carried out during the year. Provisional grades were fixed to describe the purity and sampling carried out, all the samples, but one Grade 3, fell into Grades 1 and 2.

Work has been continued and it is hoped that before long we shall be able to consider the conditions of the production and sale of Ice Cream as satisfactory.

SECTION "F".

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1947.

Disease.	Corrected Notifications.	Admissions to Isolation Hosp.	Deaths.
Smallpox.	0	0	0
Diphtheria.	8	8	0
Scarlet Fever.	45	22	0
Measles.	185	18	1
Whooping Cough.	36	3	0
Typhoid Fever.	0	0	0
Paratyphoid Fever.	0	0	0
Dysentery.	2	0	0
Cerebrospinal Fever.	0	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis.	4	4	0
Encephalitis.	0	0	1
Erysipelas.	2	1	0
Acute Pneumonia.	8	0	12
Puerperal Pyrexia.	2	1	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	1	1	0
 Total.	293	58	14

Diphtheria.

There was no reduction in the incidence of diphtheria compared with the previous year. The figure of 8 cases cannot be regarded as satisfactory as by immunisation diphtheria is preventable, but it is a big improvement on what it used to be as will be seen by reference to the following table:-

Diphtheria Incidence and Mortality 1938-47.		
Year	Cases.	Deaths.
1938	104	2
1939	82	2
1940	50	1
1941	55	1
1942	37	1
1943	21	0
1944	16	0
1945	13	1
1946	8	0
1947	8	0

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The numbers of children who completed a course of immunisation during the year 1947 was as follows:-

Primary Immunisation.

Under 5 years old	-	306
5 - 14 years old	-	119
Total.	-	<u>425</u>

Reinforcing "Booster" injection - 370

The "immunisation state" of Bromsgrove children on 31st. December 1947 was as follows:-

Age	0-1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-9	10-14	Total.
Number Immunised.	32	186	185	287	275	1662	1251	3878.
Population (Approx)	2378			3742			6120	
% Immunised.	40.5%			77.8%			63.3%	

The comparable percentage figures on December 31st. 1946 were:-

	<u>Under 5</u>	<u>5 - 14</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Percentage Immunised.	36.9%	71.8%	58.1%

Scarlet Fever.

The incidence of scarlet fever remained as it was the previous year. Generally scarlet fever has been declining in importance as a serious disease during the last fifty years mainly due to diminishing severity: it is doubtful if there is any less scarlet fever than ever there was: there must be many cases now in which the rash is so slight as to be missed altogether, and hospitalisation is being carried out on a much reduced scale.

Measles.

A considerable outbreak of measles occurred during the year, this was nation wide. Before the war epidemics of measles occurred every second year, this periodicity was broken during the war and the epidemic expected during 1940 failed to materialise. As peace has now returned, the periodicity will no doubt return and is indeed again apparently established. Generally the incidence of measles is no lower than it ever was but deaths from complications are very much fewer than was the case in former years.

Poliomyelitis.

Four cases were recorded during the year. A relatively sizeable outbreak of poliomyelitis occurred in the United Kingdom in 1947. In such ordinary poliomyelitis is not a common disease but owing to the serious consequences which sometimes follow it, it is approached with considerable apprehension.

Death and even serious paralysis are relatively infrequent and most attacks are probably too mild to be positively diagnosed, it is probable that quite a number of mild, undiagnosed cases occurred during the year in addition to the four recognised and notified.

The tragedies which do accompany an outbreak, however, should make us do all in our power to combat it. Current theories of the method of spread are that it is spread by droplet infection from the nose and throat or that it is spread by the imperfect disposal of sewage permitting infection to pass by this route.

Another point of interest is that the disease is by no means confined to infants, cases occurring at any age of life.

Scabies.

Home treatment was continued during the year with satisfactory results.

Figures were as follows:-

Households	-	22
Cases	-	53
Contacts	-	59
Total Persons	-	107

Tuberculosis.

Tuberculosis is notifiable to the District Council, and Officers of the Public Health Department visit to advise as to measures to prevent the spread of the disease as in the case of other infectious diseases. Similarly homes are visited where death due to tuberculosis has occurred.

The tuberculosis service, for diagnosis, treatment, after care, examination of contacts etc. is provided by the County Council.

Twenty Two new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and five of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were first heard of by notification or otherwise during 1947. Fifteen patients (all pulmonary cases) died of the disease.

Tuberculosis - Incidence and Mortality 1947.

AGE.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		None Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 -	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
2 -	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
5 -	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
15 -	1	2	-	-	-	1	-	-
25 -	3	-	1	-	1	2	-	-
35 -	4	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
45 -	1	3	-	-	2	1	-	-
55 -	3	2	-	-	3	2	-	-
65 and Over	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Totals.	14	8	3	2	8	7	-	-

The state of the Tuberculosis Register on 31st. December 1947
was as follows:-

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Pulmonary.	75	49	124
Non-Pulmonary.	15	17	32
Total.	90	66	156

Your obedient Servant,

N.Baster, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE BROMSGROVE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Holt and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting to you my annual report on the work carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors in 1947. Owing to pressure of work entailed by Control of Civil Building it again proved impracticable to carry out all the normal work of the Department but all essential matters that arose were dealt with.

The condition of houses in prospective slum clearance areas gives cause for concern. Very little in the way of extensive repair, or in fact, in the maintenance of a reasonable standard of repair, has been carried out during or since the war years and considerable deterioration of property has taken place. Owing to the present housing shortage, representations for the service of demolition orders have not been made except in three cases where danger to life was apparent. The number of caravans being used for human habitation in the district has increased and permission to occupy these vans on a temporary basis only has been given by the Council. During 1947 emphasis has been on the construction of new housing accommodation, and to attempt to secure this desirable aim, owners of property have been discouraged in the carrying out of work to improve their property, licences only being issued for essential repair. Notices served have related only to work of maintenance and action has been confined to the Sections of the Public Health Act relating to nuisances, no notices having been served under the repairs section of the Housing Act 1936.

The sanitary survey of the district, referred to in my last report, has proceeded slowly, owing to work in connection with building licences, and I am anxious to have before me a complete "word picture" of the sanitary circumstances of the area as soon as we are able to complete this - it will be invaluable in carrying out the important work of sanitary reconstruction on a planned basis.

INSPECTIONS.

Inspections carried out in the year are recorded below:-

	<u>Primary Inspections.</u>	<u>Re-inspect- ions.</u>
Houses under Public Health Acts.	302	896
Overcrowding.	24	2
Water Supply.	263	152
Tents, Vans and Sheds.	50	15
Schools.	5	-
Entertainment Houses.	1	1
Ashes Accommodation.	85	186
Accumulations.	13	3
Animals or Birds.	4	2
Yards, Courts etc.	3	-
Piggeries.	9	-
Drainage Inspections.	653	711
Drainage Tests.	84	-
Closets - Water.	216	251
Pails or Privies.	92	28
Cesspools.	278	8
Urinals.	24	6
Sewers and Street Gullies.	71	6
Cowsheds.	52	15
Milkshops and Dairies.	62	22
Ice Cream Premises.	33	-
Slaughterhouses for Meat Inspection.	17	2

Food Preparing Premises.	76	11
General Food Premises.	148	6
Cottagers Pigs.	323	-
Factories (with mechanical power).	73	49
Factories (without mechanical power).	15	-
Bakehouses.	22	2
Shops Act.	1	2
Rats and Mice Acts.	375	-
Building Licences.	988	-
Verminous Premises.	10	6
Infectious Diseases.	384	11
Houses Disinfected.	21	-
Housing Section 11.	12	10
Section 25.	-	3
Other visits.	22	-
Smoke Abatement Observations.	7	-
Premises visited.	2	1
Petroleum Act.	15	-
Sanitary Survey.	692	29
Miscellaneous Visits.	401	-
Interviews, Owners, Tradesmen etc.	493	-
	6421	2436

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

Centralised slaughtering has continued during the year, the fourteen private slaughterhouses in the district not being used. Meat is transferred from Birmingham to the local distribution depot and inspections are made there, from time to time, of meat before delivery to the shops. These inspections are of course, supplementary to those carried out at the time of slaughter in Birmingham. It has been found to be necessary to complain of the dirty condition of meat on arrival in Bromsgrove, but this has been remedied immediately the matter was referred to the Area Meat and Livestock Officer.

An arrangement exists with the Local Food Executive Officer, (Mr. T.E.Jury) for the insertion of a slip with every licence issued for the slaughter of "cottagers" pigs advising that an inspection should be made by the Sanitary Inspector to ascertain whether the meat is free from disease. Many householders notify us of the date and time of slaughter of their pig and an inspection follows. 323 inspections were carried out in 1947 and parts of carcases and offal found to be unfit for human food amounted in weight to 193 lbs. - the cause of condemnation was tuberculosis in the majority of cases.

Foodstuffs surrendered after examination at wholesale depots and shops were:-

Wheat flakes.	9 Packets.
Mixed Cereals.	30 lbs.
Shredded Wheat.	7 Packets.
Pearl Barley.	10 lbs.
Pudding Mixture.	10 Packets.
Flour.	36 lbs.
Prunes.	50 lbs.
Dates.	224 lbs.
Sultanas.	98 lbs.
Seedless Raisins.	25 lbs.
Packets of Tea.	14 x 4 ozs.
Fruit Drops.	27 lbs.
Barley Sugar.	144 Packets.
Cherries.	1 Bottle.
Danish Pigs Feet.	1 Box.
Beef.	512 lbs.
Gammon.	10½ lbs.
Bacon.	38½ lbs.
Cheese.	4 lbs.

Tinned Goods.

Salmon.	23 tins.
Corned Beef.	1 tin.
Canned Bacon.	1 tin.
Luncheon Meat.	1 tin.
Stewed Steak.	16 tins.
Steak and Kidney Pudding.	17 tins.
Ham.	3 tins.
Peas.	22 tins.
Beans.	111 tins.
Milk.	341 tins.
Peaches.	7 tins.
Plums.	2 tins.
Soup.	24 tins.
Cheese.	2 tins.
Sardines.	8 tins.
Crawfish.	2 tins.
Beef Loaf.	7 tins.
Irish Stew.	1 tin.
Meat and Vegetable Ration.	11 tins.
Fish Ball.	1 tin.
Mackerel.	2 tins.
Herrings.	1 tin.
Sausages.	6 tins.
Tomatoes.	10 tins.
Macaroni Cheese.	1 tin.
Jam.	7 tins.
Fish Paste.	3 tins.
Pilchards.	22 tins.
Carrots.	1 tin.
Hake.	19 tins.
Tomato Juice.	4 tins.
Apricots.	3 tins.
Apples.	1 tin.
Lemon Curd.	10 tins.
Beetroot.	1 tin.
Beef Broth.	1 tin.
Grape Fruit.	7 tins.
Fish.	10 tins.
Spaghetti.	1 tin.
Fruit Salad.	2 tins.
Pears.	1 tin.
Whiting.	4 tins.
Codfish.	1 tin.

MILK SUPPLY.

59 Samples of milk were taken for bacteriological examination from producers and retailers in the district. 7 of these were samples of Heat Treated Milk, one was unsatisfactory, the phosphatase test indicating that either the milk was not Heat Treated or contained a large quantity of raw milk. The 50 samples of ordinary raw milk from producer-retailers showed that in 6 samples only the methylene blue test was not satisfied. Sampling of ordinary milk is carried out for the purpose of indicating to us those producers who fail to observe at all times the provisions of the Milk and Dairies Order relating to cleanliness in production and bottling and it is repeatedly being found that following visits to farms where the supervision of milking etc. has taken place, good bacteriological results are obtained.

Two samples only were examined for Tubercl bacilli both with negative results.

151 visits were made to cowsheds and dairies during the year.

Premises used for the preparation and/or sale of Preserved Foods and Ice Cream.

Number of Premises Registered for the manufacture of Preserved Food.	-	25
Number of Premises Registered for the manufacture of Ice Cream.	-	15
Number of Premises Registered for the Sale of Ice Cream.	--	39 (10 actually manufacturing)

Sixteen samples of Ice Cream were submitted for bacteriological examination and they were classified as follows:-

Provisional Grade 1	-	8
Provisional Grade 2	-	7
Provisional Grade 3	-	1
Provisional Grade 4	-	Nil.

The number of visits made to Food Preparing Premises during the year was:-

Food Preparing Premises.	-	87
Ice Cream Premises.	-	33

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

Samples.

Fifty Two samples were submitted for analysis, ten were taken informally and forty two were taken formally in accordance with the provisions of the Act. They were all samples of milk. One sample only was reported upon adversely by the Public Analyst, sample number 577 which was deficient in fat to the extent of 10%. A warning letter was sent in this case and further samples obtained were reported as genuine.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Twenty three samples of water taken from wells and springs used for drinking purposes were submitted to the County Analyst for chemical and bacteriological examination.

The results of the Analyses were:-

<u>Fit for Drinking.</u>	<u>Unfit for Drinking.</u>	<u>Doubtful.</u>
5	13	5

As a result of notices served, forty two houses were provided with a piped water supply from the water company's mains and the wells serving the houses were abolished.

The scheme for the provision of a piped water supply to Alfreds Well, Pockbury Road, Brimstone Lane and Snakes Lake to serve 35 houses which, owing to shortage of water in the wells had to be supplied by cans, was completed towards the end of the year. The number of houses on the line of this new main which had been connected by the end of 1947 was 14. The delivery of water was discontinued during 1947.

The extension of the main at Little Heath Lane, referred to in my last report, was commenced towards the latter end of the year.

The schemes which still require to be carried out to provide an available piped water supply under the Rural Water Supplies and

Sewerage Act 1944 are:-

	<u>No. of Houses.</u>	<u>No. of Wells.</u>
Wildmoor Lane and Mill Lane.	13	12
Park Gate and Kidderminster Road.	11	8
Beacon Hill.	11	7
Woodrow Lane.	5	5
Fairfield Road.	3	3
Redhill Lane.	3	2

DRAINAGE.

62 properties which were drained to cesspools were connected to the public sewers during the year.

New sewers were laid by the Council in Green Lane, Woodrow Lane and Alvechurch Highway, and many owner - occupiers immediately took steps to connect their property to the sewers and abolished their cesspools.

A survey was carried out to ascertain the needs of the district in connection with the disposal of the contents of cesspools. The house to house visits were carried out by the Additional Sanitary Inspectors and it was observed that in most instances the cesspool contents were disposed of in the gardens of the houses. Many gardens are small rendering the emptying of the contents of the cesspools difficult, inconvenient and insanitary.

The number of cesspools in the district excluding properties where sewers are available is 696. Of this 696, 306 cesspools are on the line of proposed sewers. In addition to the 696, 312 cesspools are on the line of sewers which have already been provided and these could be connected to the sewers if the owners were prepared to do so.

The Council agreed to purchase a cesspool emptying vehicle and to empty those cesspools where the sewer is not available to connect the property to. The vehicle has not yet been delivered.

The pollution of the Spadesbourne Brook by sewage, referred to in the report for 1946, has now been cleared up, all the foul connections to this storm water sewer having been taken out and put into the foul sewers.

Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

The number of factories, workshops and workplaces on the register is:-

Factories etc. with mechanical power	-	88
Factories etc. without mechanical power	-	10

The number of inspections made in connection with the Factories Act was 161.

The defects found and remedied are listed in the table submitted in the Medical Officers Report.

RODENT CONTROL.

The work commenced in August 1946 of surveying the whole of the private dwellings in the district was completed towards the latter end of 1947.

The total number of inspections carried out under this scheme was 7,546 and free treatments were given at 384 premises found to be affected. Practically the whole of these infestations were confined to gardens and sheds.

Six treatments of Marlbrook Refuse Tip and five treatments of Charford Refuse Tip were carried out during the year. The Spadesbourne Brook through the town centre was also treated in conjunction with properties adjoining the brook course.

A summary of the work carried out by the Rodent Operatives under the supervision of the Additional Sanitary Inspectors is recorded below:-

Number of Test Baits laid	-	1206
Number of Prebaits Laid	-	14301
Number of Poison Baits Laid	-	4098
Number of Post Baits Laid	-	1045

NOTICES SERVED AND COMPLIED WITH.

	<u>Served.</u>		<u>Complied with.</u>	
	<u>Informal.</u>	<u>Formal.</u>	<u>Informal.</u>	<u>Formal.</u>
Public Health Act.	258	334	198	284
Factories Act.	6	-	7	1
Milk and Dairies Order.	7	-	5	-

Many of these are second notices on the same property.

Summary of defects remedied and improvements effected after the service of notices.

House drainage connected to Public Sewer.	62
Cesspools Abolished.	62
Conversions to modern Water Closets.	34
Additional Water Closets or new pedestals provided.	29
Structural repairs to W.C's.	20
Defective drains repaired.	15
Obstructed drains dealt with.	34
W.C. flushing cisterns provided.	14
Pure Water Supplies provided to houses.	42
Ashbins provided.	69
Floors Repaired.	24
Roofs Repaired.	75
Wallplaster made good.	52
Ceiling Plaster Made Good.	55
Eavesputting repaired or renewed.	22
Windows and Doors repaired.	19
New Washing Coppers provided.	11
Staircases repaired.	6
Walls rebuilt or repaired.	22
Firegrates renewed.	8
Chimneys Repaired.	11

PETROLEUM ACTS.

Fifty five licences were issued during 1947 for the storage of 103,052 gallons of petroleum spirit. One licence was issued for the storage of 1000 lbs. of Carbide of Calcium.

I should like to express my thanks to all concerned for their loyalty and co-operation and to the Additional Sanitary Inspectors in particular for their readiness at all times to help.

When early morning visits are required or it is necessary to stay late in the evening to deal with any urgent matter which arises, both Mr. Smith and Mr. Burford are always eager to give all possible assistance.

I am Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Holt and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. HOLDEN.

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

